



THIS is an age when the player holds a higher place in the estimation of the public than in Shakespeare's day—and that period was more favorable to the stage than some which followed it.

The dramatic art is now recognized as being an educative force, as well as a means of innocent relation and amusement.

The dramatic and the musical tastes of the people of Toronto and vicinity, and the provision made for thoroughly satisfying these tastes, are such as of which any city may well be proud.

As a forerunner of the good things in store for the theatrical and musical lovers for the heart of the season of 1904-5, this brochure is issued. Besides a resume of the coming attractions, and a glimpse at the players, the book gives memorandum pages which will serve, if filled out properly, to make a treasured reminder of a particularly pleasing winter and spring.

The pages devoted to announcements of many of the best Toronto firms should be not the least readable portions of the book. Those who are fond of good music and good plays are likewise appreciative of the other good things of life. And the names, and the styles, and the up-to-the-moment news of firms who deal in about everything that is good, may be found in these pages.

The publishers have not been enabled to issue this book as soon as was intended. The principal reason therefor was that some of the theatres are not in a position to know what bookings they will have for the bulk of the season before they are fairly well started on the opening period. However, this brings the publication of "Toronto Theatres" to a time when it may justly be regarded as a pre-holiday offering. And the patrons who have rendered it possible to make its distribution gratuitous will, we trust, reap additional benefit from its *entrance* at the psychological moment when the audience's heart is most attuned to catch the overture that sounds the note of holiday and winter trade.